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LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 August 1993 from H.E. Mr. Radoje Kontic, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you. I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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Annex

It has by now become clear, even to the broad international public, that the imposition of sanctions on our country by the Security Council resulted from the erroneous assessment that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an aggressor in the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Developments have proven the absurdity of such claims and have disproved the very basis upon which these decisions were taken. What the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been asserting from the very beginning, namely that a civil, religious and interethnic war is being waged in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been proven true. This has also been confirmed in subsequent statements by numerous world leaders and important political figures including United States President Clinton, the successive Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, Mr. Stoltenberg, Mr. Vance, Lord Carrington, French President Mitterrand, Russian leaders and others.

The fact that a civil, interethnic and religious war is being waged in Bosnia-Herzegovina is precisely the reason that the three warring sides have been invited to negotiate an end to the civil war within the framework of the Geneva Conference. It is hoped that as directly involved factions, on a footing of equality, they might achieve not only a termination of the conflict, but also an agreement of the three constituent peoples on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

From the outbreak of the conflict, notwithstanding unfounded accusations in connection with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has constantly contributed to the efforts to end the war. Regrettably, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not been able to stop it, nor, for that matter, has the international community or the Security Council been able to do so thus far.

At the same time, we should like to recall that Yugoslavia's positive and constructive contribution has been recognized and acknowledged, not only by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, but also by the international community. It goes without saying that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is vitally interested in the earliest possible achievement of peace and a just solution based on agreement between the three constituent peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that it is exerting every effort to that end.

Proceeding from the facts that the sanctions are unjustified and one-sided, and that we have met all the requirements imposed upon us, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has submitted requests to the Security Council for their lifting on a number of occasions. I addressed the latest such official request on 6 August 1993 to the President of the Security Council, H.E. Ms. M. K. Albright.

Despite the official requests addressed to the Security Council, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has still not received any reply, nor has any action been taken towards lifting the sanctions. In the meantime, outside the context of the adopted resolutions and contrary to the rules of procedure of the Security Council and the Charter of the United Nations, some political factions

are increasingly trying to impose additional requirements that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is to comply with, in order for the sanctions to be lifted. A request of this kind was formulated in the "Plan of joint action", a document adopted on 22 May this year, at the meeting of the Five in Washington. A similar example is also the statement of the official spokesmen for the United States State Department, Mr. McCurry, of 9 August this year, who said that the aim of the sanctions was not only for the Serbs to accept a political solution but that there were also "other conditions", "so that it would be hard to imagine that they would be lifted or relaxed in the near future only because of the fact that an agreement in Bosnia has been reached". We wonder, Mr. Secretary-General, what this statement means.

The examples cited above and similar moves are not conducive to a constructive resolution of the problem and their aim is the assumption of the prerogatives vested in the Security Council and application of its resolutions in a one-sided fashion to further the interests of particular countries. Actions of this kind call for your official reaction with a view to preventing such exercises overriding and bypassing the Security Council.

We should like to ask you, as the most competent person, to identify, in precise terms, what obligations under the Security Council resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992) the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not met.

May we particularly draw attention to the absurdity of the continued insistence on the application of the Security Council resolution 820 (1993), given the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had complied with its requirements before the set deadline and that its contents have been completely superseded by developments in the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis. We expect you to impress this upon the Security Council and to propose that the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia imposed on the basis of that resolution be lifted following a fast-track procedure.

As stated in our request to the Security Council, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia feels that it has complied with all of its obligations under these resolutions and we are convinced that you will come to the same conclusion upon careful analysis of everything we have done. We should therefore like to ask you, in your capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to initiate official proceedings with the Security Council for the lifting of the unwarranted and unjust sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.